

Amendments to the Claims: Please amend the claims as shown.

1-29. (canceled)

30. (new) A web server with integrated industrial automation functionality comprising:
a real-time operating system operatively installed on a web server computer;
a web server software system operatively installed on the web server computer;
the web server software system comprising a web server kernel and a plurality of interface-compatible software expansion modules installed on the web server kernel via a common interface protocol between each of the expansion modules and the web server kernel, wherein the common interface protocol is standardized for the software expansion modules such that the software expansion modules are integrated with, and part of, the web server software system;
a first one of the expansion modules providing server/client network communication;
a second one of the expansion modules providing real-time process control of at least one hardware component of an industrial automation system; and
the second expansion module interfaced to the real-time operating system;
wherein a network client of the web server software system can monitor and control over the network communication the industrial hardware component via the web server software system.

31. (new) The web server of claim 30, wherein the common interface protocol comprises an Internet protocol that provides communication between the expansion modules as well as communication with the client; and wherein communication between the kernel and the expansion modules is standardized on the Internet protocol; whereby integration of the expansion modules, including the industrial automation expansion module, into the web server software system is facilitated by the Internet protocol as a universal protocol.

32. (new) The web server of claim 31, wherein the internet protocol comprises TCP/IP.

33. (new) The web server of claim 31, wherein the internet protocol comprises HTTP and/or FTP.

34. (new) The web server of claim 31, wherein the plurality of software expansion modules comprises a web page server (55), an XML parser (56), an industrial field bus access (57), a JAVA processor (59), a webcam processor (60), and an XML processor (64).